

U. H. R. AS.
CHICAGO.
REPORTS FROM 1859-63.



Henry Weinbaum

— — — — —

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2010 with funding from
CARLI: Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois

FIRST

ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

DIRECTORS

OF THE

United Hebrew Relief Association,

OF CHICAGO,

BY THE

EXECUTIVE BOARD.



CHICAGO :

DAILY DEMOCRAT PRINT, 45 LA SALLE ST.

1860.



OFFICERS.

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

OF THE

United Hebrew Relief Association,

ELECT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1860-61.

PRESIDENT,

GODFREY SNYDACKER.

VICE-PRESIDENT,

M. KLEIN.

TREASURER,

J. GREENSFELDER.

RECORDING SECRETARY,

J. L. GATZERT.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY,

A. ALEXANDER.

TRUSTEES,

JACOB LIEBENSTEIN,
ABRAHAM HART.



FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

*To the Directors of the United Hebrew Relief Association,
by the Executive Board.*

CHICAGO, October 4th, 1860.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN :

With a deep sense of gratitude to the Lord, our God, the God of our fathers, the father of the widow and orphan, the true source of charity, whose all-seeing eye penetrateth the most secret recesses of the heart, who seeth and knoweth all things, and by whose mercy we are enabled to aid and comfort those of our brethren, who are justly entitled to our sympathy, to grant relief to the needy, to attend the sick and comfort the dying, the members of the Executive Board respectfully submit to the Directors, and through you to our members at large, the first annual Report of the operations of the Association.

ORGANIZATION.

For several years past various Jewish organizations of this city have maintained a special Relief Fund for the assistance of non-members. There was also one (Relief) society whose sole object was the relief of non-members. The several Presidents were dispensing charity to applicants. In most cases relief was granted to strangers, many of whom were unworthy of support, while resident families of the city, too modest and self-reliant to ask assistance, were in actual distress, for want of an organization, whose duty it might have been to seek them out. The idea was conceived that a great deal might be accomplished by concerted action on the part of all the Jewish Societies. First, by saving a distressed person the trouble and heart-burning of

running about town to half a dozen or more organizations to explain his condition to so many different executive officers, and receive a small donation of each. Second, by systematizing charity, examining each case, and not to throw money away upon undeserving vagabonds. This state of things led to the organization of this Association. The subject was proposed to Ramah Lodge by one of her members, and a Committee appointed to wait upon the several Societies, and propose a convention of delegates to act upon the matter. The plan met the prompt approval of every Society, and each elected one delegate for each ten of their members to meet in convention as recommended by the Committee. The convention met, and was composed of the following delegates, duly accredited:

Hebrew Relief Society: M. M. Gerstley, A. Kohn, G. Snyderacker and J. Cook.

Hebrew Benevolent Society: R. Guthmann, J. Liebenstein, J. Greensfelder, A. Hart, B. Schlossman, M. Shields, J. M. Stine and L. Freiburger.

Ramah Lodge No. 33 J. O. B. B.: H. Greenebaum, L. J. Unna, J. Greenebaum, Sen.; B. Barbe, H. Felsenthal, Jul. Hamburger, J. L. Gatzert and B. Brunneman.

Young Men's Fraternity: Edward S. Salomon, J. Beiersdorf, M. Morris and B. Engel.

Relief Society No. 2: A. Alexander, A. Barnett, A. Herzog and S. Levy.

Ladies' Benevolent Society: Mrs. J. Heyman, Mrs. J. Greenebaum, jr., Mrs. R. Foreman and Mrs. Jos. Liebenstein.

Young Ladies' Benevolent Society: Mrs. A. Rubel, Miss E. Stiefel and Miss F. Salomon.

B. Schlossman, *President of Congregation Anshe Mayrre.*
Jonas Moore, “ “ *Bnai Sholem.*

After due deliberation by the convention during several meetings, a constitution was agreed upon, which is hereto attached in print, and under its provisions the undersigned were elected members of the Executive Board, whose term of office expires this day.

MEETINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD.

The Executive Board held their first Regular Meeting November 20th, 1859, and subsequently met once a week until after the 1st of May last, since which time the Board met once in two weeks, besides holding several special meetings called by the President in contingent cases. All applications have been made to the Board at regular or special meetings, and committees appointed to investigate each case.

It has been just as much our aim to refuse all unworthy applicants, as we have been anxious to assist those really worthy of our support. The President and Trustees have power under the Constitution to donate not exceeding five dollars in any one case. They have not made use of this power except in one or two cases, preferring always to have the Board act upon each application, in order to be fully satisfied as to the propriety and justice of the donation; notwithstanding all this caution we may have been imposed upon in a few cases, nevertheless the Association is fully established upon the principle of "*Active support to the deserving only.*"

The families of this city, who by sickness or other misfortune, have been reduced to abject poverty, have been the primary object of our care. We have had a small number of such, particularly during the last winter, whose helpless situation has appealed most powerfully to our active sympathy.

You know full well that many Israelites in utter want of even the necessities of life are too proud to beg. We have used every exertion by the appointment of standing Committees on Relief in each Division of the city, to find out such families. We have found them in the midst of winter without fuel, and often without bread, and even then had to argue with and persuade them that it was not dishonorable for them to take what they had not asked in order to make them the recipients of our charity. And then in one case, even while the children asked for bread, and the mother had it not to give them, she thanked us kindly for our kind endeavor, but said she could not take anything from us, she was from honorable parentage, and had not come to America to receive charity. And not until we asked her to get over her scruples for the sake of her poor children, and told the care-worn half-starved mother, that whatever we would do for her, she

might refund to the Association when she would be able to do so, could we take courage to place some money in her hand and leave the house, not wishing to witness her humiliation in thanking us for the gift. And we have had several instances where donations of this kind have been refunded to the Association after the parties relieved felt able to do so. It is for such cases as these, that this Association was organized, and for this purpose we ask the continuance of your support, and the blessing of God Almighty.

CLAY LITERARY ASSOCIATION.

On the 28th of December, 1859, the Clay Literary Association by communication signified their intention to join this organization, and accredited the following Delegates: Louis Reitler, Morris Barbe and Aaron Schloss.

RECEIPTS.

A. RELIEF FUND. —Amount of Contributions by com-	
ponent Societies,.....	\$238 00
Amount of Collections by Committees,.....	139 25
Benefits by Lectures, &c.,.....	89 75
Returned by a relieved person,.....	5 00
	<hr/>
	\$472 00

B. RESERVE FUND. —Amount of Contributions by com-	
ponent Societies,.....	\$ 50 50
Amount of Collections by Committees,.....	28 50
Benefit of Ladies' Fair,.....	550 00
	<hr/>
	\$629 00

EXPENDITURES.

RELIEF FUND. —Amount Expended,.....	\$492 00
This amount exceeds the amount of receipts which has	
been advanced by the Treasurer,.....	20 00

INVESTMENTS.

RESERVE FUND. —Amount invested,.....	\$628 00
Leaving on hand, balance of,.....	94

The Reports of the Treasurer and Financial Secretary contain the details of receipts and expenditures, and we deem it therefore unnecessary to recapitulate them in this Report.

THE PUBLIC.

Our thanks are particularly due, and hereby tendered to the public, to Dr. N. B. Isham and Dr. N. S. Davis for medical services, and Dr. Mahla for medicines at reduced prices; to Ex-Mayor Haines for official encouragement, and to the Michigan Central Railroad Company, Michigan Southern Railroad Company, Pittsburg, Fort Wayne & Chicago Railroad Company, the Illinois Central Railroad Company and the New York & Erie Railroad Company, for forwarding passengers under our charge at reduced rates.

We have been met with a uniform, kind and liberal spirit by every body with whom we had occasion to negotiate, excepting the Chicago, Alton & St. Louis Railroad Company, in whose behalf the Receiver, Mr. Robb, denied us a ticket to St. Louis at half price, although we convinced him that every other road was doing it for us.

The following letters received by the Board speak for themselves:

MICHIGAN CENTRAL RAILROAD COMPANY, }
CHICAGO, January 4th, 1860. }

H. GREENEBAUME, Esq.,

DEAR SIR:—Your note of even date is before me, as also the letter of Mayor Haines representing the object of your Association.

In cases like those referred to by you it has sometimes been our practice to pass at reduced fare, generally one half tickets. I will issue such in this case, or any where relief is nursed by charitable subscription. Truly yours,

H. E. SARGENT,
General Agent.

To the President and Executive Committee of the Hebrew Relief Society:

GENTLEMEN: Through the medium of this note, hoping that it will meet with your approbation, I hereby offer my gratuitous services in any deserving cases of charity which may fall under your notice requiring medical aid—feeling that in any work of this nature I may render you, I shall but be discharging to myself in a manner most gratifying—the debt which every man owes to his profession and the common cause of humanity.

I am informed that you meditate the organization of an hospital at no distant date. My experience has led me to become familiar with the practical workings of such Institutions, and am convinced of their *great* usefulness and economy. I have always entertained a deep interest in every such project. I feel that under your auspices it would not fail to be successful, and when your plans approach maturity, I should be happy to aid you with suggestions and experience in arranging the details of such an Institution. With feelings of respect, I remain Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Serv't,

RALPH N. ISHAM, M. D.

Prof. of Surgical Anatomy in Lind University.

MONDAY, DEC. 19, 1859.

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
CHICAGO, December 6, 1859. }

To Whom it may Concern :

The Executive Officers of the United Hebrew Relief Association have this day reported their organization to me. I understand it is the object of their Association to provide medical attendance to the sick; provisions, clothing and fuel to the needy, and pecuniary assistance when necessary.

It is with pleasure that I take cognizance of this organization, and cheerfully recommend them to the liberality of those with whom they may officially negotiate for the purchase of fuel, provisions, etc.; and I further recommend them to the liberality of our citizens generally.

JOHN C. HAINES, MAYOR.

THE LADIES.

Our thanks are also due to the officers and members of the Ladies' Society, and of the Young Ladies' Benevolent Society for their efforts and material support to the interest of this organization during the past year. They held a Fair in the month of June last, which netted to the Reserve Fund the handsome sum of \$550.

We feel that we cannot adequately express our thanks for their untiring efforts on that occasion. Their reward is the

approving voice of a noble conscience. We trust that their praiseworthy example will be imitated by the gentlemen members of the Association.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion, Ladies and Gentlemen, let us entreat you to sustain this Association hereafter with your good will and influence. Still in its infancy, it has already done much good. We have yet to learn that our sister Societies have had any occasion to do outside relief in this city since our permanent organization; and it is obvious that by this consolidation more good can be accomplished with less expense. Cold weather will soon be upon us, and while most of us are happy in the enjoyments of earthly comforts, let us think of the few families in this city who cannot help themselves, and need our support. Thank God there are but few of our co-religionists so much come down and poverty stricken, unable to satisfy their hungry little ones with bread, or protect themselves against the inclemency of the weather. And we all know that they will not go out to beg.

It is the duty of this organization to seek them and relieve them, in many cases to persuade them to avail themselves of our charity.

Whatever division of sentiment there may be among us, with reference to politics or other matters, on this subject we all agree, for charity is the characteristic trait of every Israelite. We feel that it is unnecessary to enlarge upon this; we are happy to know that each and every one of you appreciate the object of this Association.

The Israelites of Chicago are not behind their co-religionists of other cities of the Union in point of enterprise and moral reputation, and why should we be less willing to provide for our poor, than the Israelites of New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia, Cincinnati and other places. Respectfully,

HENRY GREENEBAUME, *President.*

G. SNYDACKER, *Vice-President.*

ISAAC GREENSFELDER, *Treasurer.*

JACOB LIEBENSTEIN, *Trustee.*

JUL. HAMBURGER, “

A. ALEXANDER, *Financial Secretary.*

CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE I.—NAME.

SEC. 1. The name and style of this organization shall be :
“UNITED HEBREW RELIEF ASSOCIATION OF CHICAGO.”

SEC. 2. The proceedings of this Association shall be conducted in the English language. All Laws, however, shall be framed and written out both in English and German ; and debates may be held in either language, at the choice of the speaker.

ARTICLE II.—MEMBERSHIP.

SEC. 1. As members of this Association shall be considered all members of such Hebrew Societies in this city, who declare by resolution, their willingness to co-operate in this Association, and who shall pay for the number of their respective members at least the minimum of annual contributions, also any Israelite not a member of the Societies, who will pay not less than the fixed minimum of contribution.

ARTICLE III.—BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

SEC. 1. Each Society elects for each ten of its members, one representative, and all representatives, together with the Presidents of the Jewish congregations in this city, shall constitute the Board of Directors of this Association.

ARTICLE IV.—OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. The Officers of this Association shall consist of a President, a Vice President, a Recording Secretary, a Financial Secretary, a Treasurer and two Trustees. All seven shall constitute the Executive Board of this Association.

SEC. 2. The election of officers shall take place annually on the middle days of the Feast of Tabernacles.

ARTICLE 5.—OBJECT OF THE ASSOCIATION.

SEC. 1. It is the object of this Association, as much as possible, to assist distressed co-religionists.

SEC. 2. Such assistance shall consist in medical aid for the sick, donations of fuel, clothing, and when urgent, also in money to the suffering.

SEC. 3. It is the final object of this Association to provide for a Hospital, in which poor co-religionists shall be attended to when sick; and for an Asylum to receive Jewish widows and orphans without means.

ARTICLE VI.—APPLICATION OF MONEYS.

SEC. 1. The Association divides its money into two funds; A., Relief Fund; B., Reserve Fund.

SEC. 2. The Relief Fund shall be applied according to Section 2, Article 5; and the Reserve Fund is to be kept to carry out the object laid down in Section 3, Article 5.

ARTICLE VII.—CONTRIBUTIONS.

SEC. 1. Each member pays a minimum of fifty cents per annum in advance to this Association; which amount shall be paid in October each year, and goes to the Relief Fund.

SEC. 2. All annual contributions, after the minimum for all members belonging to this Association shall have been deducted from the whole amount of contributions, shall be equally applied to the two funds.

SEC. 3. In the same manner shall all donations be equally divided to both funds, unless the donor otherwise specially directs.

SEC. 4. Donations in clothing, provisions and fuel, will be thankfully received; and if desired, can be applied according to the directions of the donor; otherwise they shall be set apart to the Relief Fund.

SEC. 5. The Reserve Fund shall remain wholly closed, until the Board of Directors shall find the same sufficiently strong to carry out the purposes for which it is intended. (*See Article 5, Section 3.*) Such resolution, however, can only be passed at a general meeting of the Directors, by the vote of two-thirds of the Directors present.

SEC. 6. The Reserve Fund shall be invested on interest upon Real Estate Securities, under the control of the Executive Board until the same shall be strong enough for application of its intended purpose.

ART. 8.—DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SEC. 1. It shall be the duty of the President to preside at all meetings and observe order and decorum.

The President shall call special meetings if necessary, or requested in writing by five members of the Association. The President shall sign all orders on the Treasury, which may have been appropriated by the Association or the Board. The President shall appoint Committees. All documents, papers, deeds, &c., &c., belonging to the Association, shall be in the hands of the President for safe keeping ; who, by leaving his office, shall deliver all such property belonging to the Association to his successor.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

It shall be the duty of the Vice President to act as presiding officer of the Association in the absence of the President, when all the duties of the President shall be devolving upon him.

The Vice President shall, in conjunction with the Trustees, keep control and look over the books of the Treasurer and Secretaries whenever he deems it necessary.

TREASURER.

After taking his office, he shall give bonds with two approved sureties, to the Executive Board in such a sum as they may deem proper. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys belonging to the Association, and pay all orders which are regularly signed by the President and Secretary. The Treasurer shall keep a true account of all receipts and disbursements, and report at each general meeting a balance of his books, and showing the state of finances of the Association. By leaving his office, the Treasurer shall deliver all moneys, books, papers, &c., &c., of the Association to his successor.

RECORDING SECRETARY.

The Recording Secretary shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of the Association ; also of the respective meetings

of the Executive Board. He shall issue all summonses of notices ordered by the President, and shall deliver all books, &c., &c., to his successor in office.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

It shall be the duty of the Financial Secretary to keep a just account between the Association and its components, to receive all the moneys for the benefit of the Association, pay the same over to the Treasurer within five days after reception, and take his receipts therefor. He shall keep a strict account of the funds of the Association; countersign all checks drawn by the President, and deliver all books, papers, &c., &c., to his successor in office.

TRUSTEES.

It shall be the duty of the Trustees to examine the books and accounts of the respective officers, and adjust all claims or expenditures of the Association. All applications shall be made to the President, who shall be empowered by and with the consent of the Trustees, or one of them to satisfy applicants in the sum not exceeding five dollars. In all other cases, he shall have power to apply money or other articles designed for charity as the Executive Board in its judgment deem proper, provided that no appropriation shall exceed twenty dollars in one application.

ARTICLE IX.—VACANCIES.

SEC. 1. In case of vacancy of any Officer of the Board of Executors, which may occur by resignation, removal, death or otherwise, the President shall immediately call a special meeting of the Directors, for the purpose of holding an election to fill said vacancy. In case of resignation, removal, death, or otherwise of the President, the Vice-President who, for the time being, shall act as President, shall immediately call a meeting of delegates for the purpose of holding an election to fill said vacancy; the same duty shall devolve upon any of the remaining officers in rotation.

ARTICLE X.—MEMBERSHIP.

Only such Society shall be considered a component part of this Association, a majority of whose delegates shall have signed this Constitution.

ARTICLE XI.—QUORUM.

SEC. 1. Four members at a meeting of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

SEC. 2. A majority of all the Directors, including officers, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors.

PROCEEDINGS.

All questions or proceedings of this Association, not especially provided for in this Constitution, shall be decided and ruled by parliamentary usages.

AMENDMENTS.

This Constitution, or any part thereof, may be altered or amended by a vote of a majority of all the Delegates, at a general meeting.











